Application No.: 10/573,646

Art Unit: 2872

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

## Listing of claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended): A method for producing a polarizing film, comprising:

playing out a plurality of films from a plurality of rolled raw films;

dyeing the films and

stretching the films,

wherein each individual film of the plurality of films [[is]] are in a stacked arrangement without touching throughout the method for producing the polarizing film, horizontally aligned in a vertical fashion

wherein the plurality of rolled raw films are in a stacked arrangement without touching throughout the method for producing the polarizing film, and

wherein the films are simultaneously dipped into at least one type of processing liquid without contacting each other.

- 2. (Original): The method for producing a polarizing film according to claim 1, wherein the number of the films is 2 to 4.
- 3. (Previously Presented): The method for producing a polarizing film according to claim 1,

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wherein the films are made of polyvinylalcohol and the processing liquid contains a dichroic substance in the dyeing step, and then the dyed films are uniaxially stretched in the stretching step.

- 4. (Original): A polarizing film obtained by the method according to claim 1.
- 5. (Original): An optical film comprising the polarizing film according to claim 4 and an optical layer provided on at least one side of the polarizing film.
  - 6. (Original): A liquid crystal panel comprising the polarizing film according to claim 4.
  - 7. (Original): An image display comprising the polarizing film according to claim 4.
  - 8. (Original): The liquid crystal panel according to claim 6, wherein the liquid crystal panel is produced by an in-house production method.
  - 9. (Original): The image display according to claim 7, wherein the image display is produced by an in-house production method.
  - 10. (Currently Amended): An apparatus for producing a polarizing film, comprising: a plurality of rolled raw films;

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one processing bath containing one type of processing liquid;

a film delivery holder provided in the one processing bath and configured to deliver a plurality of films which are played out from the rolled raw films,

wherein the plurality of films are in a stacked arrangement without touching throughout the apparatus for producing the polarizing film,

wherein the plurality of rolled raw films are in a stacked arrangement without touching throughout the apparatus for producing the polarizing film, and

wherein the films are in a state where each individual film is horizontally aligned in a vertical fashion so as to simultaneously dip the films dipped into the processing liquid without contacting each other.

- 11. (Original): The apparatus for producing a polarizing film according to claim 10, wherein the number of the films is 2 to 4.
- 12. (Previously Presented): The method for producing a polarizing film according to claim 1,

wherein a total stretch ratio is from 3.0 to 7.0 in the stretching.